

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /079 W

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O R 091032Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2026

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4575

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT ON ENDING
DISCRIMINATION

1. THE LONG AWAITED STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON
ENDING DISCRIMINATION WAS ISSUED IN SALISBURY YESTERDAY,
AUGUST 8. THE STATEMENT MAKES ILLEGAL RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
IN ALL PUBLIC PLACES (HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, TOILETS, ETC.),
REMOVES BARS ON TRADING IN "BLACK AND WHITE AREAS" AND PROVIDES
THE FRANCHISE TO BLACKS FOR PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ELECTIONS. THE EXECUTIVE RULING, HOWEVER, DOES NOT TOUCH
UPON INTEGRATION IN THE SENSITIVE AREAS OF EDUCATION,
MEDICAL CARE, AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS. NOR IS THERE ANY MENTION
OF THE LAND TENURE SYSTEM. THE STATEMENT, HOWEVER, ASSERTS
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THAT THE REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATION IS "AN ONGOING EXERCISE,
WHICH WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ALL DISCRIMINATION HAS BEEN REMOVED."

2. AFTER THE STATEMENT HAD BEEN ISSUED, MUZOREWA REPORTEDLY
TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE WAS "VERY VERY PLEASED" WITH
THE DECISION AND TERMED IT "ONE OF THE GREATEST THINGS THAT
HAS HAPPENED TO HIS COUNTRY."

3. BLACK JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS, HOWEVER, HAVE TERMED THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S ACTION AS A TIMID MOVE, WHICH WILL NOT MEET THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY. DAVID MUKOME, PUBLICITY SECRETARY OF MUZOREWA'S UANC, WAS PUBLICLY QUOTED AS SAYING "THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS, IT IS LESS THAN PEANUTS."

4. COMMENT: MUZOREWA HAS VERY LIKELY LOST MORE PRESTIGE AND SUPPORT AS A RESULT OF THE LIMITED ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO END DISCRIMINATION. HIS TOUGH DEMANDS MADE ONLY LAST SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, FOR THE IMMEDIATE END OF ALL DISCRIMINATION (PRETORIA 4524) HIGHLIGHTS THE BISHOP'S FAILURE TO ACHIEVE BROAD REFORM.
EDMONDSON

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